

SAS MEE

Bulletin

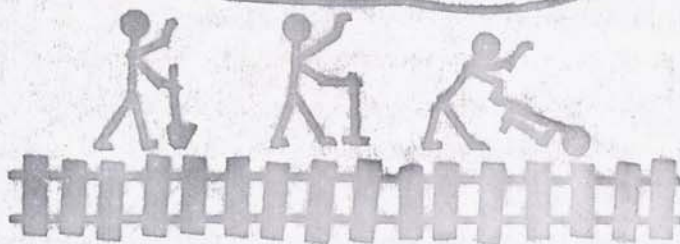
THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY
OF
MODEL AND EXPERIMENTAL
ENGINEERS

WINTER
JUNE 1984



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Papers



Winter 1984

This issue of the 'Bulletin' has been timed to coincide with our Annual General meeting and in succeeding pages you will find our President's report, a report from the Boiler House attendants (I very nearly left out the word attendants, but as we are well aware , the Boiler House speaks for itself every public field day ! ?), a report from the people who disturb our gold fish, a report from the canteen, a report about the grounds and very importantly our treasurer's report .

Now, you know, that you can't vote at this meeting unless you are financial so rush your subs to Jeff NOW . What if some person moves that the subs be increased, you wouldn't want to be caught would you ? Once again I will list our current fees ;

Full member	\$ 20.00
Country member	\$ 10.00
Student	\$ 5.00
Family	\$ 30.00
Joining Fee	\$ 10.00

Also, when you pay your fees you will receive the 1984 A.A.L.S. membership card and I hope to be able to organise some more discounts for you for which you will need that card .

Since last Bulletin we have had as 'afters' to our general meetings , Mr. Alan Wood from Nottingham England who gave us a glimpse of the English S.M.E.E. scene in a talk with slides which will long be remembered by those present . More about Alan later . That was in February, at the March meeting we had some mediocre films for which I apologise, apparantly all the good films were taken up by the 'Festival '. However Ian Clarke's illustrated talk about signals at the April meeting more than made up for March . We are fortunate indeed to have people like Ian who not only know their subject but are able to put it into practice for our benefit .

During this period we let our grounds out to the 'Bacchus Club', we provided supervision and trains, the weather (which we didn't provide) was terrible but despite that we had a very nice letter from the Bacchus Club which said that the members had voted that annual picnic as the best ever . Thank you to those boys (?) who provided the locos and braved the wind and rain .



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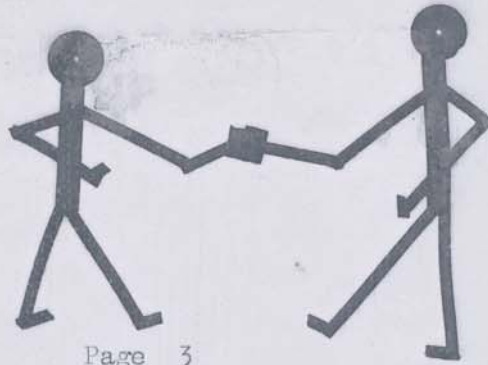
After much tearing -up of paper and tearing out of hair, I think that I have come up with a roster which is fair, nominates only financial members (did you know that we had to cross quite a few off our membership list as unfinancial ?) and you can expect to be rostered approx. every eight or nine months . And as the roster goes to the 15th. September 1984 you are well warned ! There is still some doubt as to whether we should roster Locos/drivers, as I understand it the general opinion is no roster and so far it seems to be working fine, but I must admit to being worried about the Easter Saturday Field Day when we relied upon volunteers to do all the work . In the event I needn't have worried as for once there was more volunteers than we could use and a plethora of locos for both the elevated and ground tracks . Don't take the foregoing as being unappreciative of you efforts, far from it, thank you for giving up part of the holiday week-end (week?) to help out and as there were so many there we all had a good time instead of it being a hassle .

Bill Coles was there and had steam up in his new loco . When is a loco new ? When you first start building ? When you first steam it ? or when it is all painted and prettied up ? Anyway it was beaut to see it Bill and a credit to you and I hope that it gives you a lot of pleasure and well worth the past seven years .

Talking about new locos, prior to the April committee meeting, Terry Trezise turned up for a short time . Terry was down from Clare for an eye check and had with him the major parts of the boiler for his loco and was asking advise from Allan B. (being not only President but one of the club's boiler inspectors) . We were all greatly impressed by the workmanship which Terry displayed the more so as Terry has to rely on books etc, being "far from the madding crowd " . And thereby hangs one of a couple of Quotable Quotes I have for you . Terry was bemoaning the fact that he was "working in the dark" and quick as a flash Allan said " continue working in the dark, you are doing better than most of us in the light " .

The other quote I have for you comes from a letter to me from Alan Wood, where he is writing about the next exhibition in Nottingham to be held at Easter 1985 . Alan is constructing a 30 cc. O.H.V. petrol engine (a nasty bit of 4 cylinder precision work) and he said " I sometimes think that we model engineers have a streak of masochism in our make-up " . And I agree !!!

Alan Wood continues " I look back with great pleasure at having met you and the members of the S.A. Society and please convey my regards and thanks to them for



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their hospitality . (as I am sending a copy of this Bulletin to Alan I can say that the pleasure was all ours ..Jim)

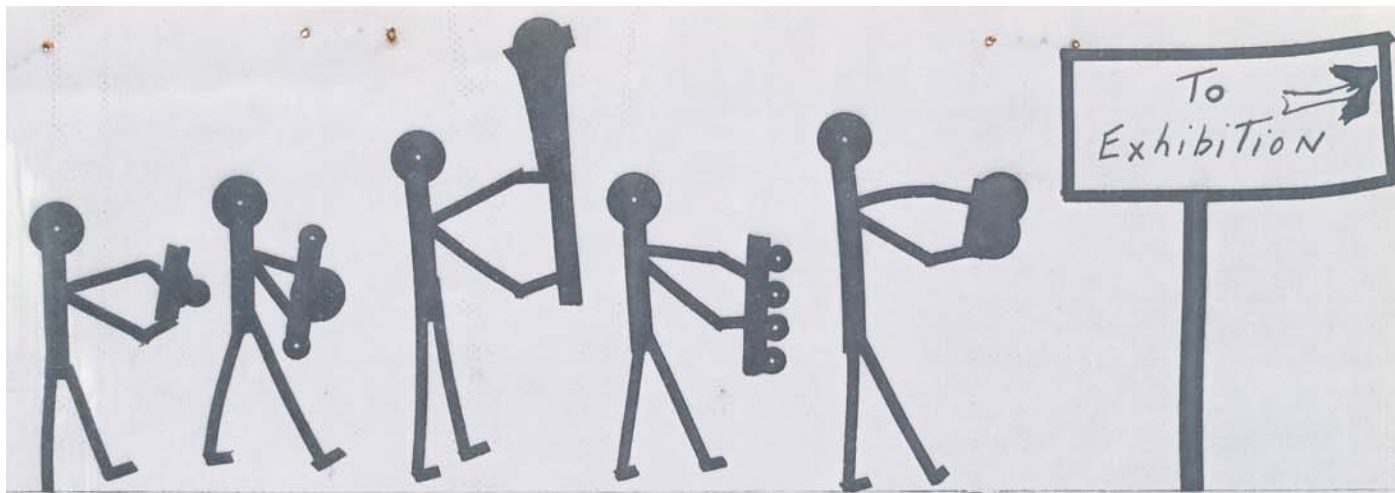
During the year we have lost some members, as mentioned earlier, due to being unfinancial (and ignoring our letters) but we have gained quite a few new members and I list them below;

David Gunn	Willunga	Orchadist
Tony Isso	Newton	Fitter & Turner
John Bradbury	Glandore	Accountant
Brad Cottle	Clarence Gardens	A.N. Loco Driver
Wally Mann	Ridgehaven	Ret. Mech.& Elec.
Phillip Nottle	Westminster School	Student
Brian Hosegood	Hackham West	S.T.A. Bus Driver
Marc Simpson	Westminister Sch.	Student
John Mere	Millswood	Fitter & Turner
Brian Oldfield	Brighton	Engineer
Glen Oldfield	Brighton	Student
Thomas Smith	Queenstown	Boilermaker/Welder
Bobbie Janse	Rynella	Marine Engineer
Ian Robertson	Tea Tree Gully	Accountant
Michael White	Marion	Toolmaker
Robert Searle	Unley Park	Student
Hedley Fayle	Brompton	Typewriter Mech.
Ted Hancock	Fulham	Ret.Welder
Tony Conway	Para Hills	Engineer
David Gates	Aldgate	Student Engineering

so you see that we have gained a good cross-section of all trades, they have of course all been welcomed to the Society by our President and we hope that they mix around make themselves known and really join in with the older members .

Talking of older members, Clary Burden was 81 a couple of weeks ago and as his Doc. has given him another ten - fifteen years I think that I have convinced him to build a $7\frac{1}{4}$ loco ... What about it Clary ?

Mention must also be made of the superb signal box that has been erected adjacent to SASMEE JUNCTION station, this surely is going to make life easier for



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those rostered on the ground level track and may I say for the secretary who has to compile the roster !

Howard Bateup had his re-vamped loco on the track on Easter Saturday and I think that Howard was pleased with it's performance, I certainly would have been, and apart from it's performance it looked good . However I don't think that Howard would recommend tossing your loco off the tracks just for the excuse of re-building . Alec also took the opportunity of giving his loco a run, so that the members not present on that day missed a lot of fun, as Brian Niesche said "I haven't enjoyed myself as much for a long time " . Still, we hope that the members attending the annual conference at Moorabin also had a good time and no doubt we shall hear all about it and with photographs .

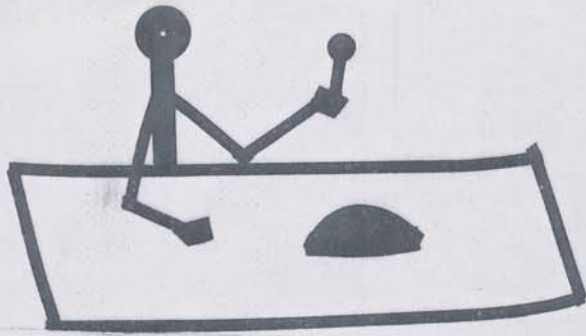
A couple of items from the mail which you may have missed and certainly the country members would have missed ;

* Broadaxe Film Productions are offering a video cassette " Steam Railways of the South Maitland Coalfields " . This film explores the past, present and proposed future of Australia's last commercial steam railway system --- so says the blurb. Available in VHS and Beta @ \$42.50 plus \$2.00 postage or if ten people want it the price comes down to \$34.00 ea. South Maitland Coal Fields are an old stamping ground of mine and the photographic possibilities are there in abundance .

* Automatic couplers... Investment castings in phosphor Bronze .. in 5 inch G the cost is \$ 15 . The sample I saw looked good , if you are interested let me know and I will send more details and apart from that the people attending Moorabin will have seen them in action and may have some further views .

* Finally ... for our wealthy pastoralists ? ! Flexitravel is offering a "Lines and Branches " tour of Britain in August of this year cost approx \$3995 includes a week in Scotland a week travelling south through England and a few days in London at each end of the tour . More details if you require them .

I'm looking foreward to the proposed exhibition of work to be held later this year, the new committee will have to get cracking to organise it, time seems to be rushing around or am I getting too old ? It seems that I no sooner finish one Bulletin and then I have to start again ! Not really, now that I am getting to know you all and the job, it's not too bad . I MUST be a masochist !!!



GREETINGS TO SASMEE MEMBERS!

My term as President is all but completed and I would like to express my thanks for the privilege of being appointed President of this society - I have enjoyed the job and I want to sincerely thank the executive committee for their enthusiastic cooperation throughout the 2 years I have been President.

1983-4 has been another good year for the society with quite a good influx of new members and financially we are quite buoyant.

The ground track was completed and operating during this year and it is all we expected it to be - a great success and capable of being even more successful - it is up to us to make it so.

The impressive appearance of the grounds on field days is due in great part to the efforts of Gavin Thrum and Stewart Gamble and their regular lawn mower sessions. Thanks boys!

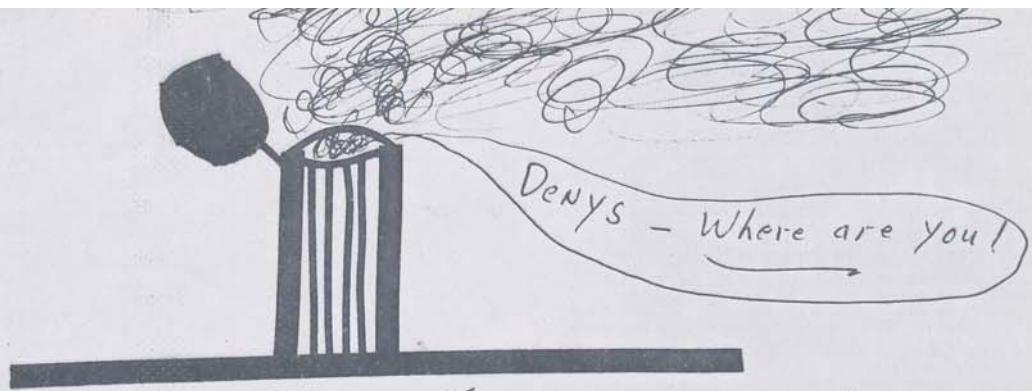
Once again I would like to thank Barbara and John Beale for their dedicated efforts in running our canteen - we are really very grateful to them.

Another important position - that of secretary - has been carried out by Jim Degotardi in his usual thorough manner and on top of that he has edited our magazine as well - we know how difficult a job this is and can appreciate the time and effort needed to make it a success - Thank you Jim!

I am certain the next elected President will get the same complete support and cooperation from everybody that I have had - this will ensure our society will continue to grow and flourish for our own benefit.

Thank you.

Allan Brabham.



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Boiler House Report

by Colin Cook

The annual inspection of the vertical boiler and air pressure vessels was carried out by the boiler inspector (Mr. Les Farlam) from the Dept. of Industry and Employment in the presence of Bob Scanlan and myself .

The inspection revealed some corrosion and pitting at the water level of the shell and in the furnace crown. This condition has been controlled by careful attention to the water treatment . We are fortunate in having , in an honourary capacity, the services of Christopher Rudge who is a water treatment expert from the firm of Tandex . Christopher monitors the condition of boiler water when it is in steam and advises on chemical quantities and blowdown procedures . The inspector has indicated that if we continue careful management the old 'kettle' should last for a few more years .

The raw water supply to the boiler house was almost non existent due to corroded pipes, however Bob Scanlan has corrected this fault .

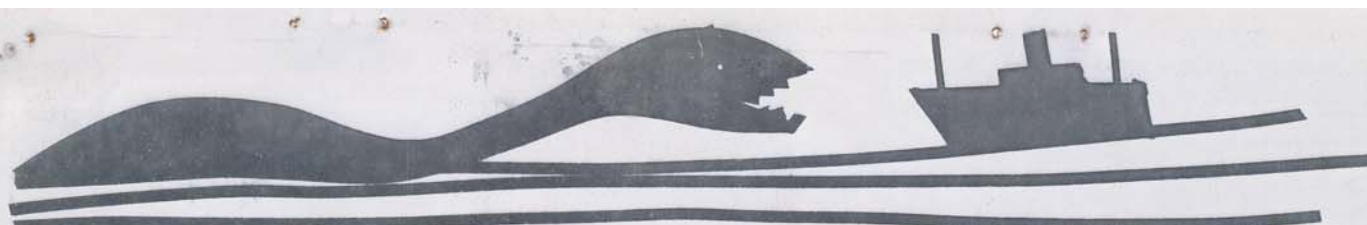
Fuel supply has been replenished from time to time by the members, Glen Templeman has brought at least two loads of fence posts, Garry Fogarty brought a load of palings and has promised another load . Amongst others to bring loads of old timber were Jack Mell and Jeff Schaefer (now I know where that window frame went to from the broadcast box ..editor) . Please continue to bring your old floor boards etc. we have to feed the brute and it burns almost anything .

A tree collapsed over the steaming - up bay and Denys issued an edict allowing the tree to be cut up for firewood, Terry Fitton was co-opted or co-erced to exercise his talents with his chain saw . Jack Davey ensures that the grounds and this includes the wood heap, are kept tidy . Thanks Jack .

A natural function of the staff of the boiler house is public relations i.e. answering questions from the public about the boiler, the large exhibits and also the models not forgetting the two I.C. engines: and Victor's efforts in starting them .

I believe that there will be a further addition in the form of an old and interesting stationary steam engine, now being assembled by John Welch .

Thanks are due to all those who have helped to make the boiler house a going concern, to Phil Waugh for making his truck available to transport the logs, to those who have taken part in busting up the logs and to Joe Hendry, Bob Scanlan, Ian Robertson & Wally Mann for their assistance .



Do you remember a line from Kenneth Grahame's "Wind in the Willows" that goes something like, "There is nothing in the world half as good as simply messing about with boats"? Well, the boats we "mess about" with, while not passenger carrying, afford us a good deal of fun and also seem to give a lot of pleasure to the public.

Not many new models have hit the water in the past twelve months. Most of the boat fraternity have some trouble in maintaining their existing craft, especially when mishaps occur. Was it a freak gust of wind, or the work of vandals when Alan Saunders' warship came drifting out of the dock into the path of Norm's hydroplane? One interesting and shapely addition to the fleet has been Charlie Manning's "Oceanic" - beautifully made and painted. A feature of the model is the use of home-made fibreglass sheet for all the deck housing. Charlie also produced a submarine which did not seem to appreciate the shallow water and tended to bury its nose on the mud - it works well in deeper water and proves that radio signals reach it when submerged.

There have been a few times through the year, particularly in the drier months, when the water level in the pond has been very low, the choked up plumbing failing to replace the water evaporated. Perhaps the time has come to try an experimental bore (no elaborate gear - just a posthole digger with extensions). You never know your luck; the water-table may be only a few feet down and any amount of water would help to lower the rates.

Weeds are a perennial problem - with a few days of hot weather the pond can become a Sargasso Sea of algae that some enterprising manufacturer could use for making string , judging by the way it ties up propellers. However , John Lever seems to have found the right stuff to fix it - made by Ciba-Geigy and it clears the water in a few days without having any apparent effect on the fish.

As mentioned in a previous bulletin , in January we were pleased to have the company of Allan Wood of the Nottingham Society , also his son Michael to add their boat to the number on the pond.

The board listing boats, owners and radio frequencies has proved to be a good innovation on busy days ,but quite often is not necessary as the number of boats fluctuates from 7 or 8 to one or two (shamefully, on one public day, NONE). Perhaps we need a bit more co-ordination and consultation to ensure that we put on a good show for the public.

A S A S M E E
S T I R E R.

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The Canteen by Fred Gordon

The canteen continues to flourish under Barbara & John Beale's management, the introduction of freshly prepared sandwiches has proved to be very popular with visitors & members .

Barbara has been keen to have souvenirs to supplant the revenue, she has been indefatigable in her efforts to make it a success . In the beginning supplies were obtained from other clubs and were sold on a small commission, now we have our own souvenir spoon, key ring, pennant and some engineman caps . A few badges photo's & literature are still obtained from other clubs .

One of our members supplied us with a quantity of ink drawings of the construction and completion of H.M.S. Buffalo, the canteen sells these at \$3 each or two for \$5 . Please continue to support Barbara and John in their efforts which are much appreciated .

A couple of items to conclude with;

Regretfully the requested report about the grounds is not to hand at the time of printing (Monday 7.5.84), nor have I received the annual audited financial statement . This will be included in the posted copies of the 'Bulletin ' and if it turns up in time, as a loose page in the copies available at the meeting .

Also in the posted copies of the 'Bulletin' will be the names of the newly elected President and committee of S.A.S.M.E.E. (elected at A.G.M. 8.5.84)

Hint for this issue ;; Don't complain about the tie racks we all get for Christmas and birthdays ... they are excellent for hanging sets of ring spanners etc.